

# MERRIMACK MAGAZINE

AND

## LADIES' LITERARY CABINET.

"REPLETE WITH EV'RY CHARM T' IMPROVE THE HEART,  
"TO SOOTHE LIFE'S SORROWS, AND ITS JOYS IMPART."

No. 5.]

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1805.

[Vol. I.



### Miscellaneous Selections.

#### THE TWIN-BROTHERS.

A TALE.

[CONCLUDED.]

HIS eldest brother, who had given her the full blown flower at the same time, thought that nothing more was wanting to his happiness, than the approbation and consent of her relations. Chance brought them both on the very same day to the parents of their beloved. But how great was their astonishment on their meeting each other! As soon as the father appeared, each addressed him for his daughter. He assured them that he had but one child, of whose virtue he was fully convinced, that she never, in opposition to the laws of the land, could favor two lovers at once. He, however, concluded, from the perfect likeness that subsisted between the two brothers, that some mistake had happened, and sent for his daughter to clear up the matter. She immediately appeared, decorated with the four flowers she had received, in the complete conviction, that the two full-blown flowers had been presented her by one and the same hand.

Venus herself, attended by the graces, could not have shone more lovely than Berilla—for thus was the damsel called. Her form was noble and majestic; and her complexion surpassed the blooming rose. No sooner did she perceive the great resemblance between her lovers, and the tokens they wore of her inclination, than she exclaimed, "I am deceived! Thou knowest my innocence, O almighty Sun!" She was unable to utter more, but fell motionless to the earth. Her beautiful cheeks were covered with the veil of death. The father, frantic with agony, held her in his arms, and pressed her to his heart. My dear, my only daughter, live, or I must die with thee; I know that thou art innocent. Her mother and the servants were fetched to her relief, and with much difficulty restored her.

She lifted up her eyes, raised a deep sigh, closed them again, and said: "Unhappy Be-

rilla, thou art now dishonoured! Thou wert the comfort of thy parents, who loved thee in their hearts; and, as the reward of their tenderness, thou art become the cause of their distress!" On uttering these words she burst into a flood of tears. Her father, himself oppressed with sorrow, strove to calm her tortured mind by every endearing expression, and by giving her repeated assurances that he was convinced of her innocence. "O my father, (said she) am I still worthy of thee?" "That thou art (replied he) thy sorrow indicates, which at once is thy justification, and the triumph of thy sensibility. Compose thy spirit (added he with sighs) I know thy innocence." The two brothers stood speechless at this mournful scene; they alternately cast on each other looks of distrust, of anger, and then of compassion.

In the mean time the amiable maiden completely revived; at least so far as to be able to reply to some questions that were made to her. She declared that the first, who led her to the altar, was the person that made impression on her heart; that she, presently after, as she believed, accepted from him the first token of his inclination, and at length consented to become his; that thereupon she wore the full-blown flower: but she was totally ignorant which of the two brothers it was by whom it was given her. She concluded by saying, that she was ready to abide by the judgment of the elders, and to submit to any punishment they should think fit to inflict.

As the marriage engagement is among the most weighty concerns of the empire, and as there was no law already provided in regard to so peculiar a case, it was necessarily left to the decision of the Pophar, or prince of the country. The cause was propounded in the presence of him and the elders. The likeness of the two brothers was in reality so great, that they were scarcely to be distinguished asunder. The prince asked which of the two it was that led her to the altar; The eldest replied it was he. Berilla confessed, that indeed he pleased her at first; but the impression he made on her was but slight. Upon this it was asked, who gave her the first flower; and it proved to be the youngest. Berilla said she lost that; but, shortly after, her lover returned it to her, though at this moment he appeared less amiable to her than before; however, the con-

stantly thought it had been the same. The point which most perplexed the judge, was, that the maiden had received the full-blown flower from both the lovers. They looked steadfastly on each other, without daring to utter a word. The Pophar interrogated the young lady, whether, at the time she gave her consent, she did not believe she was giving it to him who had led her to the altar? She affirmed that she did; but likewise declared, that her greatest inclination had fallen on him from she received the first flower. Both the brothers were now set before her, and the question was put to her, which of the two she would chuse if the election were now freely left to herself? She blushed; and, after a few moments of consideration, replied: "The youngest seems to have the greatest inclination for me;" at the same time darting him a look, that betrayed the secret wishes of her soul.

All men now waited with impatience for the decree of the prince, and eagerly strove to read in his eyes the judgment he was going to pronounce: but particularly the two lovers, who seemed expecting the sentence of life or death. At length the prince addressed himself to Berilla with a stern and gloomy countenance: "Thy misfortune, or rather thy imprudence, prevents thee from ever possessing either of the brothers. Thou hast given to each of them an incontestable right to thy person. One hope alone remains for thee; and that is, if one of them will forego his pretensions. And now, my sons, (continued he) what have you to say? Which of you is disposed to sacrifice his own satisfaction to the happiness of his brother? They both made answer, they would sooner lose their lives. The prince turned again to the damsel, who seemed on the point of sinking to the earth, and said: "Thy case excites my compassion; but, as neither of the two will yield, I am obliged to condemn thee to a single state, till one of thy lovers change his opinion or die.

The lot was cruel; for in Mezzorania the state of celibacy was a heavy disgrace. The whole assembly was about to separate, when the younger brother threw himself on his knees before the judge: "I implore your patience for a moment (said he;) I will rather sacrifice my right, than see Berilla so severely doomed. Take her, O my brother; and may ye live long and happily together!

And thou, the delight of my life, forgive the trouble my innocent love has caused thee! This is the sole request I have to make thee." The assembly rose up, and the magnanimous lover was about to depart, when the prince commanded him to stay. "Son, remain where thou art (said he;) thy magnanimity deserves to be rewarded. The damsel is thine; for, by this sacrifice, thou hast merited her love. Give her thy hand, and live happily with her!" They were married shortly after, and the prince acquired great renown by this decree.

### A SINGULAR TALE.

WE are about to indulge our readers with a very true relation of an affair which happened some years since in one of the French provinces.

A man of fashion paid his addresses to a young lady of beauty, rank, and distinguished merit.

As there was a parity in years, in fortune, and in situation, the lady received her gallant with the accustomed condescension females seldom withhold from those whom they are taught to pronounce upon an equality with themselves.

The parents of the young lady, however, from whatever motive, disapproved of the match. The gentleman pleaded—but in vain: and finding it impossible to overcome the *aged obstinacy* of the parents, he resolved to solicit his charmer's consent to enter into the holy bands of matrimony, without any farther consultation with the parents, who seemed to resolutely determined to persist in a denial. Having fully explained himself on this head, the young lady, after recovering from a confusion which, ever on these occasions, is visible among the virgin fair, consented to become his wife; they were wedded, and the marriage kept a profound secret.

It happened, after a few years had elapsed, that the husband was obliged to leave his lovely bride, being called into a foreign country in order to adjust some family affairs, which required his immediate presence. The necessity was no less urgent than disagreeable to both parties; however, they permitted their good sense to operate, and after vowing mutual affection and fidelity, parted in certain expectation of seeing each other, at a time when such an alteration should take place as might afford them an opportunity of living in a manner every way becoming an happy and virtuous wedded pair.

For some time they corresponded: but the husband being obliged to cross several tempestuous seas, did not receive such frequent answers to his epistles as he had reason to expect. This he attributed to a difference of climate, rendering a regular correspondence altogether impracticable; and as he imagined his letters had miscarried, he resolved for the present to desist from writing; not relishing the idea of having his sentiments canvassed over by indifferent strangers, or perhaps captious enemies.

Another reason which induced him to lay aside for the present all thoughts of an epistolary correspondence, was the prospect he had of shortly returning to France, where the presence of his amiable consort would infinitely exceed all ideal interviews, and make ample amends for every pang his heart had undergone.

It is now time that we should return to the lady.

As she possessed a considerable share of youth and beauty, it was not to be supposed she could long remain without a train of admirers. Her parents, who never dreamt about their daughter's previous marriage, became each day more anxious to select a person whose mental and personal endowments might, in their estimation, render him worthy their favorite daughter's hand and heart.

Several years had now rolled on, without the lady's hearing a syllable of her real husband. At last the fatal news arrived that he was now no more.

The lady was inconsolable, but she found it prudent to stifle her griefs, that she might obliterate the smallest degree of suspicion.

When she had paid every tribute consistent with reflection to the memory of her departed lord, a gentleman was proposed by her parents for her approbation; the good old people were so prejudiced in favor of the person they had introduced, that they gave their daughter to understand their happiness depended on her compliance.

The young lady, who thought herself entirely at liberty to commit a second trespass upon hymen, after some little hesitation, consented. The nuptials were celebrated; the lady, if not happy, was placid, and serenely content; the parents were delighted; the bridegroom was enraptured; and all were jocund, all were sprightly.

For four years this newly married couple lived in perfect harmony: but at length an intermitting fever seized the lady; the physicians were baffled, and she to all appearance, paid the debt due to nature. She was buried with pomp, and every reverence shown to her memory the custom of the country would admit of.

During her last illness, her former husband, whom we left abroad, had returned; and, after making the necessary enquiries, was informed of every circumstance we have related above.

As he was unwilling to surprise her whilst she combated with sickness, he had employed a trutiful person to make him acquainted with each particular of her case; and the instant the news of her death reached his ears, a frantic wildness seized his soul, and he resolved to receive no manner of sustenance, but to bury himself amongst the mould which lay lightly on her breast, and thus pine out the short remaining period of his existence.

Fall of this resolution, he repented, the night she was buried, to her tomb, and, after digging up the earth, discovered her coffin, tethched a deep sigh, and was about to strew his wearied limbs, when, to his consternation, astonishment, and affright, he perceived signs of life. He tore open the coffin, and found it even as he suspected. His wife was almost suffocated: he snatched her up in his arms, conveyed her to the house of a neighbouring friend, had her put into a warm bed, and in a few weeks she was perfectly restored to life and health.

As she had a real affection for her first husband, she made no scruple of choosing him for her companion; but as the affair soon made a prodigious noise throughout the country, the second husband, who also doated on her to distraction, no sooner was informed of the particulars, than he attempted to force her to live with him; the prior claimant as resolutely persisted in keeping her in himself. In short, a lawsuit was commenced: the most learned advocates in France were employed: a redundancy of erudition was displayed, and, after being litigated for a considerable length of time, a solemn decision was given in favour of the gentleman who had first married her.

This story has so much the air of fable and romance, that to leave an impression of its truth on the minds of our readers, we shall inform them, that the French lawyers have selected all the famous trials, with the decisions which have been given in their courts for a series of years.

This work, which is contained in several folio volumes, is entitled, *Les Causes Célèbres*. The above very extraordinary relation is recited therein, together with all the subtle and ingenious arguments used by the opposite advocates for the different husbands. So that there can be little doubt of the truth of a narrative so well authenticated.

**REMARK.**—PERSONS are sometimes ruffled into passions at trifles, who are calm on much more important occasions; because perhaps they do not seem the occasion worthy of their philosophy, or have not time to call it forth.

### THE ART OF PLEASING.

THE desire of being pleased is universal; the desire of pleasing should be so too. It is included in that great and fundamental principle of morality of doing to others what one wishes they should do to us. There are indeed some moral duties of a much higher nature, but none of a more amiable; and I do not hesitate to place it at the head of the minor virtues.

The manner of conferring favors or benefits is, as to pleasing, almost as important as the matter itself. Take care, then, never to throw away the obligations, which perhaps you may have it in your power to confer upon others, by an air of insolent protection, or by a cold and contemptuous manner, which titles them in their birth. Humanity inclines, religion requires, and our moral duties oblige us, as far as we are able, to relieve the distresses and miseries of our fellow creatures: for a true hearted benevolence and tenderness, will prompt us to contribute what we can to their ease, their amusement, and their pleasure, as far as innocently we may. Let us then not only scatter benefits, but even strew flowers for our fellow-travellers, in the rugged ways of this wretched world.

There are some, and but too many in this country particularly, who, without the least visible taint of ill-nature or malevolence, seem to be totally indifferent, and do not shew the least desire to please; as, on the other hand, they never delightedly offend. Whether this proceeds from a lazy, negligent, and little disposition, from a gloomy and melancholic nature, from ill health, low spirits, or from a sacred and fallen pride, arising from the consciousness of their boasted liberty and independency, is hard to determine, considering the various movements of the human heart, and the wonderful errors of the human head. But be the cause what it will, that neutrality, which is the effect of it, makes these people, as neutrals do, despicable, and mere blanks in society. They would surely be roused from their indifference, if they would seriously consider the infinite utility of pleasing.

The person who manifests a constant desire to please, places his, perhaps, small stock of merit, at great interest. What vast returns, then, must real merit, when thus adorned, necessarily bring in!—A prudent user would with transport place his last shilling at such interest, and upon so solid a security.

The man who is amiable, will make almost as many friends as acquaintances; I mean in the current acceptation of the word, but not such sentimental friends as Pylades and Orestes, Nysus and Euryalus, &c. but he will make people in general wish him well, and incline to serve him in any thing not inconsistent with their own interest.

Civility is the essential article towards pleasing, and is the result of good-nature, and of good sense; but good breeding is the decoration, the lustre of civility, and only to be acquired by a minute attention to, and experience of good company. A good-natured ploughman or fox-hunter may be intentionally as civil as the politest courtier; but their manner often degrades and villifies the master; whereas, in good breeding, the manner always adorns and dignifies the master to such a degree, that I have often known it to give currency to base coin.

Civility is often attended by a ceremoniousness, which good breeding corrects, but will not quite abolish. A certain degree of ceremony is a necessary out-work of manners, as well as of religion: it keeps the forward and turbulent at a proper distance, and is a very small restraint to the sensible, and to the well-bred part of the world.

**APHORISMS.**—Silence is a thing which ceases to be, the moment one would describe what it is.

The fox knows a good deal, but a woman in love knows more.



POETRY.

If, after reading the inimitable "ODE" of COLINS, to the "PASSIONS," any applause can be reserved for other productions in the same style, the following highly finished Ode to "MADNESS," by PENROSE, may support the second claim.

## MADNESS.

S WELL the clarion, sweep the string,  
Blow into rage the mule's fires !  
All thy answers, Echo, bring,  
Let wood and dale, let rock and valley ring.

Hail awful Madness, hail !  
Thy realm extends, thy powers prevail,  
Far as the voyager spreads his vent'rous sail.  
Nor best nor wisest are exempt from thee ;  
Folly—Folly's only free.

Hark !—to the astonish'd ear  
The gale conveys a strange tumultuous sound,  
They now approach, they now appear,—  
Phrenzy leads her chorus near,  
And demons dance around.—

Pride—Ambition idly vain,  
Revenge, and Malice swell her train,—  
Devotion warp'd—Affection crost—  
Hope in Disappointment left—  
And injur'd merit with a downcast eye,  
(Hurt by neglect) flow stalking heedless by.

Loud the shouts of Madness rise,  
Various voices, various cries,—  
Mirth unmeaning—causeless moans,  
Bursts of laughter—heart-felt groans—  
All seem to pierce the skies.—

Rough as the wintry wave, that tears  
On Thule's desert shores,  
Wild raving to the unfeeling air,  
The fetter'd Maniac foams along,  
(Rage the burthen of his song)  
In rage he grinds his teeth, and rends his streaming  
hair.  
No pleasing memory left—forgotten quite  
Connubial love—parental joy—  
No sympathies like these his soul employ,  
—But all is dark within, all furious black despair.

Not so the lovelorn maid,  
By too much tenderness betray'd ;  
Her tender breast no angry passion fires,  
But flighted vows possess, and fainting soft desires.  
She yet retains her wonted flame,  
All—but in reason, still the same.—  
Streaming eyes,  
Incessant sighs,  
Dim haggard looks, and clouded o'er with care,  
Point out to pity's tears, the poor distracted fair.  
Dead to the world—her fondest wishes crost,  
She mourns herself thus early lost.—  
Now, fadly gay, of sorrows past she sings ;  
Now pensive, ruminates unutterable things.  
She starts—she flies—who dares so rude  
On her sequestrate steps intrude ?—  
'Tis he—the Momus of the flighty train—  
Merry mischief fills his brain.  
Blanket rob'd, and antick-crown'd,  
The mimick monarch skips around ;  
Big with conceit of dignity he smiles,  
And plots his frolic's quaint, and unsuspected wiles.

Laughter was there—but mark that groan,  
Drawn from the inmost soul !  
"Give the knife, demons, or the poison'd bowl,  
To finish miseries equal to your own."—

Who's that wretch, with horror wild?  
—'Tis Devotion's ruin'd child,—  
Sunk in the emphasis of grief,  
Nor can he feel, nor dares he ask relief.—

Thou, fair Religion, wast design'd,  
Beauteous daughter of the skies,  
To warm and cheer the human mind,  
To make men happy, good, and wise.  
To point, where fits in love array'd  
Attentive to each suppliant call,  
The God of universal aid,  
The God, the father of us all.

First shewn by thee, thus glow'd the gracious scene,  
'Till Superstitution, fiend of woe,  
Bade doubts to rise, and tears to flow, [tween.  
And spread deep shades our view and heaven be-

Drawn by her pencil the Creator stands,  
(His beams of mercy thrown aside)  
With thunder arming his uplifted hands,  
And hurling vengeance wide.  
Hope, at the frown aghast, yet lingering flies,  
And dash'd on Terror's rocks, Faith's best dependence lies.

But ah ! too thick they crowd, too close they throng,  
Objects of pity and affright !—  
Spare farther the descriptive song—  
Nature shudders at the sight—  
Protract not, curious ears, the mournful tale,  
But o'er the hapless group low drop Compassion's veil.

## SONG.

HOPE, thou nurse of young desire,  
Fairy promiser o' joy ;  
Painted vapour, glow-worm fire,  
Temp'ret sweet that ne'er can cloy.

Hope, thou earnest of delight,  
Softest soother of the mind ;  
Balmy cordial, prospect bright;  
Surest friend the wretched find.

Kind deceiver, flatter still,  
Deal out pleasures unposset ;  
With thy dreams my fancy fill,  
And in wishes make me blest.

## WIT AND GENIUS.

TRUE wit is like the brilliant stone  
Dug from the Indian mine ;  
Which boasts two various pow'rs in one,  
At once to cut and shine.

A genius too, if polish'd right,  
With the same gifts abounds ;  
Appears at once both keen and bright,  
And sparkles while it wounds.

## THE PRETTY VIXEN.

WHEN foam'd the dashing waves, and winds were high,  
Like Venus, sure, from Ocean's arms you sprung ;  
For I can bear the lightning of your eye,  
But who can bear the thunder of your tongue ?

## SEPARATION.

THE worst of tortures fate can find  
To lacerate a feeling mind,  
Or rob the foul of rest,  
Is when its adverse laws ordain  
That Separation's pow'rful pain,  
Should agonize the breast.

Oh ! 'tis an anguish too severe  
For even Hope to soothe or cheer,  
Though deck'd in radiance bright,  
For, like dense vapours which arise,  
And cast a gloom upon the skies,  
It soon obscures her light.

Its torturing pangs, alas ! are found  
More poignant than the keenest wound,  
That venom'd darts can send ;  
For fortitude can suffer pain,  
But, oh ! to part, and not again  
Rejoin, a much lov'd friend,  
Corrodes, as well as pains, the heart,  
Makes ev'ry nerve with anguish smart,  
And every bliss destroys ;  
Remembrance, with officious zeal,  
Increases ev'ry pang we feel,  
Recurring to past joys.

And oft, amidst the gloom of night,  
It brings Louisa to my sight,  
Then leaves me to deplore ;  
In every dream I likewise see  
Some tender proofs of love tow'rd me,  
And, waking, feel 'tis o'er.  
Ah ! no, though distance may divide,  
Affection still will be her guide ;  
Still, like the needle true,  
Her thoughts will turn towards that pole  
Which seem'd to guide her chatten'd foul,  
Though not within her view.

And Mem'ry's pencil oft shall paint,  
In colors neither cold nor faint,  
The portrait of a friend ;  
On whom, through ev'ry scene of life,  
Whether of pleasure, pain, or strife,  
She firmly may depend.

Then, why should Separation's pow'r  
Impress with gloom each future hour,  
Why ev'ry bliss destroy ?  
Still our united thoughts shall greet,  
And, though divided, they shall meet,  
And thus partake of joy.

## EPIC KAM.

AN amorous youth once sought the bliss,  
To steal a soft and balmy kiss,  
When Sylvia stamp'd, (and some say swore)  
That he should gain the prize no more ;  
He finil'd and said, 'if such your pain,  
Pray, Miss, return it back again.'

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